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Address by Judge Louis F. Bunge, President of the Superior Court Judges' Association

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government are much more than we as lawyers frequently are willing to assume, but the times are dangerous. They call for careful, honest judgment by leaders, who are able to influence others; not because of what some individuals might think that they can get out of their government, but to preserve representative and free government, by being willing to give the kind of selfless leadership that will make these institutions serve, and make it possible to perpetuate them.

ADDRESS BY JUDGE LOUIS F. BUNGE

President of the Superior Court Judges' Association

Mr. Smith tells you that it has been a regular custom to invite the President Judge of the Judges' Association to address you, and I am very frank to say I hadn't learned of this until the night before I started on my trip over here, when I had a letter from Miss Morris advising me that I was to speak. I have no indication of what I shall speak of. So, I am just blazing my own trail.

May I welcome you on behalf of the Superior Court Judges' Association and all of its members. May I say to you that you are extremely fortunate to meet in the city of Tacoma.

In 1938 the Governor of this State ordered me to Tacoma for two weeks. I sat here at that time in the Presiding Department and I think that, in all of my judicial experience, was one of the most delightful. The lawyers and the Bar were very kind to me. They showed me every courtesy and I will always remember until my dying day, the wonderful time that I had here and it was sad this morning when for the first time since 1938, I returned here and there wasn't one, not one, of those old judges left. Remann, Hodge, Card. They have all passed to the Great Beyond.

I wonder as you meet here today whether you have given any thought to the fact that this is the hundred and sixtieth anniversary of the granting of the Bill of Rights; that at this time, you are not only privileged to meet here in a very instructive convention. I have examined your program and I think it is wonderful, directed to all of the different questions that were before you. It seems to me that every lawyer should go home with very much additional knowledge to aid him in his practice.

Have you stopped to think, my friends, of the glory that's yours of being just a plain American citizen, of all of the economic privileges

that you have enjoyed, of the educational advantages of living in a land where science and industry excels in all the world, where learning is practically free to everyone who cares to indulge?

I read some statistics some time ago on New York University. It is a school that we rarely hear of. It doesn't seem to stick out like Harvard and Yale and Ann Arbor and Columbia and Princeton. I was amazed to learn that that school had a faculty of 3,000 members, and I was amazed to learn that it had a population that was something like 4,000 more than the entire population of the city of Yakima, and we take those things for granted. There isn't any thought of gratitude apparently, that we have everything here; that the good Lord has furnished us with all of the raw materials that we need to live and to prosper and to thrive and to be happy. All that's possible, excepting time and one or two metals.

Contrast that, if you will, with India, that large country that is always in the throes of unrest and rebellion and religious difficulties. Four hundred and sixty-seven religions and one-quarter of the beef stock of the world, and there is in that country more starvation than there is anywhere else in the world; and here as I have indicated, we have everything.

What are we doing with it? What are we doing to perpetuate it?

Now, I realize that my office is non-partisan. I have no thought of making any political suggestions, except as I want to call out a thought here and there, to point out and to develop the one central theme that I have.

Here is an incident in my court about a year ago. An elderly lawyer walked into my courtroom with a young boy. It was in the presiding department, and he presented an application for a change of name, one of the oldest applications that is known to the law and one of the simplest. I read the petition and it simply stated the desire for a change of name. I turned to the counsel and I said that of course, these petitions were quite informal, but usually some reason was given by a man who wanted to change his name. This old lawyer rose and he said, "Your Honor, my client won't give me any reason." That was strange, except that they were both very sincere. This was a slight frail boy of seventeen, and I said, "Have him take the stand," and he was sworn. He gave his name and he said he wanted his name changed, and that was all he would say then. I attempted to have him tell me why and he wouldn't do it.

So, after some effort of about five minutes, I said to him, "Son, you come on around into my chambers. I want to talk to you a minute. I want to talk to you alone." The bailiff brought him around, and I had him take a chair and I said to him, "Son, we don't grant these petitions for change of names just lightly. There has to be some reason and some suggestion, and you must give me this, if you expect to have any action on it. In any event, the man as a general rule is usually proud of his father's name; he doesn't want to change it, unless there is some reason why this wanted to be done." And you know, after some fifteen minutes of urging he finally told me what the trouble was.

He said, "Ever since I have been a small boy, as long as I can remember, when I would get up in the morning, I'd come out for breakfast and my father would be in the room, and he would be cursing the Government. He'd be vilifying everything about the Government that he could think of. At night when he came home, it would be the same thing. I never was happy at home. The only thing I ever listened to, the only thing my mother and brothers ever listened to, was my father's hatred of the Government." "Well," I said, "assume that your father does hate the Government, why do you want to change your name? It's still your mother's name," and he said, "Well, I'm going over there to fight for the Government. I'll probably be sent to Korea, and I may get killed over there, but I don't want to fight under the name of my father for my Government."

Now, ladies and gentlemen, think of the import of that boy's request. I granted it. I granted it promptly and I went outside—and I had said to this young man before he said anything to me—"Now, listen, you can tell me. I'll hold the matter in confidence. Nobody will ever learn who you are, or what your name is, or what this is about, as far as I am concerned," and that was probably the biggest reason why he volunteered to me.

Did you ever stop to think, my friends, what you and I and all of us are unwittingly doing to our children, by this partisan hatred that we have on one side or the other side of some of our political issues?

You know there was a little fellow—Mrs. Bunge and I just love him. He is a little bit of a chap. He grew up from a baby and he comes over to our doorstep and he sidles up to me and he is the nicest little fellow you ever saw. Mrs. Bunge will give him a piece of candy and send him on his way and we love him practically as our own grandchildren. Little Johnny we call him, and he came over one day—he is now

pretty close to four years old—this happened along this spring sometime, and he sat down and I said, "How are you, Johnny?" "Well, I'm fine," he said, and he said, "Truman is a * * * *," and I said, "What?" He said, "Truman is a * * * *," and then it came to me what he was saying. "Why," I said, "Johnny, Truman is the President and you should speak respectfully of him," and he said "Well, my daddy said so."

Now, I happen to know a little bit about his daddy. I know how radical he was on one side or the other side of the issues, and that boy was like your boy and my boy when they were small; like your daughter and my daughter. They gained their ideals of government slowly as they grew and developed in mental stature, and they looked above all things to their father. Do you think a father like that could explain the significance of the Flag? Do you think he could explain the respect that we ought to have for our congressmen and our cabinet officers or president, or whoever it may be? It is not possible, and yet, to those children until the time that they get into the adolescent stage, our country and everything that we have, is represented entirely by those symbols. To them the government means the President and Congress. To them the symbol of the government is the Flag, for they are taught to salute it and they are taught the little dedication to the Flag, "We pledge allegiance to the Flag" and so on and so forth, and they sing, "God Bless America."

Don't you think, my friends that they ought to be taught, no matter what our separate hatreds may be; no matter whether we hate Hoover or hate Roosevelt—don't you think that they ought to be taught to sing "God Bless America" with their hearts as well as their lips?

Just stop and think what hatred does to us. Down in the South there are four or five states, where about 50 percent of the population still refers to Lincoln in that unspeakable term, as to which the Virginian says, "When you say that, Partner, smile." They have been torn by hatred since the Civil War days and the result is written all over that devastated country. They have progressed less than any of us. They are our poorer cousins. They have more illiteracy in that land than they have anywhere else, and they need more in the way of Federal aid for education than anybody else does. Those are things to think about.

Are we to leave to our teachers the only imprinting, an imprinting of patriotism to our children? Are they the ones that are charged with

the duty of doing this? Can't we discuss in the presence of children our partisan differences, without this intense hatred that's present? What is the reason that we have twenty-five million people that won't vote, if it isn't that there is no respect for Government?

Ladies and gentlemen, an astute influential old banker in Spokane, who has passed on now, once said to me, "You know, Judge, lawyers run the world," and I said to him, "Mr. Rutter, why do you say that?" He said, "The reason is that they can talk." Now, he was sincere about it. He meant that. They could sell the ideas that they had.

Lawyers are the disciples of order. In the courtroom they know that if they are to prevail, that if they are to present in the best manner possible the case that they have, they must have order. There must be order on one side and there must be order on the other side, and they—above all things—respect the office. That's where their respect goes and not to the man. If we could do that for our children, wouldn't we be doing a wonderful service?

I am leaving it as a thought to you, whether something of that kind shouldn't have the honest and the earnest effort of lawyers.

Harvard University and Columbia stand out as institutions of learning and will you tell me why out of those two institutions of learning you should have produced a Hiss or a Chambers?

Now, there is something wrong in our teaching. We have got to start very soon to give respect to the office, so that we may implant respect into the hearts of our little children. So that when they grow up to be twenty-one years of age, they will want to come in and participate in government and we won't have twenty-five millions of voters that won't come near the polls.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

BY DEL CARY SMITH

Since the organization of the Washington State Bar Association under the integrated Bar Act our Association has gone forward along sound and progressive lines, in step, I believe, with the American Bar Association, after which many of its activities have been patterned.

During the past year no lawyer has been called upon for service to the Association who has declined, and I hasten to add, no lawyer has called upon the Association and particularly its efficient executive staff in the Seattle office, who has not received prompt and courteous atten-